

Platform of the 32nd District Democrats

Adopted September 14, 2016

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1. Preamble

2. *“The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to*
3. *have done but cannot do at all, or cannot do as well, for themselves.” - Abraham Lincoln*

4.

5. In the current era of political upheaval and intensifying ideological animosities, what sharply
6. distinguishes us is that we proclaim our unshakable loyalty and dedication to creating the best
7. government we can achieve in the service of all, not just the few.

8.

9. *“There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why... I dream of things that never*
10. *were, and ask why not?” - Robert F. Kennedy*

11.

12. We reaffirm our determination to pursue equal opportunity for all in every realm of life, and to
13. expand our dreams of excellence with each step forward, aiming ever higher toward that grand
14. goal set out in the Preamble to our Constitution: “to form a more perfect Union.”

15.

16. To that end, we offer this Platform.

17.

18. Agriculture

19. *Food is essential to human survival, and forest products for survival in reasonable comfort;*
20. *accordingly, agriculture must remain of vital importance in Washington, and Washington in our*
21. *nation's agricultural production.*
22.

23. We support:

- 24. ● Programs that ensure the availability of high-quality food, strengthen rural communities,
25. preserve family farms and maintain the viability of the land into the future.
- 26. ● Local food and beverage producers and believe that government should develop
27. strategies for promoting local products.
- 28. ● Requiring all food to be labeled to disclose whether it includes genetically modified
29. organisms (GMOs).
- 30. ● Clear food labeling, including date harvested or packaged, nation of origin, irradiation,
31. and organic certification.
- 32. ● Increased funding for and inspection of domestic and imported foods and livestock to
33. ensure safe food.
- 34. ● Measures that promote and sustain family farms.
- 35. ● Measures that sustain farming when calamities occur and that ensure to farmers and farm
36. workers a fair return on their efforts, safety in doing that work, and food that is safe to
37. eat.
- 38. ● Bringing sustainable farming to our urban communities, including community and
39. backyard gardens and local farmers markets.
- 40. ● Encouraging the use of locally grown food through school meal programs and local
41. farmers' markets.
- 42. ● Policies consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act that preserve
43. agricultural land and natural resources critical to the viability of food, fuel, and forest
44. production into the future.
- 45. ● Protecting waterways and habitat by reducing the use of herbicides, pesticides, and other
46. hazardous materials.
- 47. ● Decisions about water resources based on sound, credible scientific and economic
48. information, including local concerns.
- 49. ● Ensuring that farm subsidy programs benefit family and organic farms.
- 50. ● Incentives to encourage the agricultural skills, careers, and lifestyles that are essential to
51. our country's survival.
- 52. ● Protection of productive farmland and wetlands from residential, industrial, and other
53. types of development.

55. We oppose:

- 56. ● Experimenting with genetically modified organisms (GMOs) by field-testing.

57.

58. Civil Rights and Human Rights

59. *We must remain at the forefront of the struggle to extend social, political, economic and legal*
60. *rights to all persons, and we oppose policies that would tend to reverse or impede those gains in*
61. *human dignity.*

62.

63. **We support:**

64. ● The right of all women to have autonomy over their own bodies, to be free of government
65. interference in their reproductive decisions, including birth control and abortion, and to
66. have safe, legal, protected, affordable and accessible health care that enables them to
67. make those choices according to their own wishes.

68. ● Privacy as a basic human right that the government and the private sector at all levels
69. must acknowledge in their rules and regulations.

70. ● The right of every adult to marry another person without regard to gender, and to enjoy the
71. same civil and legal rights accorded to all married persons.

72. ● Our Constitutionally guaranteed religious freedom that prevents the government from
73. imposing or suppressing religious beliefs, or favoring or funding any set of beliefs.

74. ● Anti-discrimination laws that sustain human dignity in all aspects of life.

75.

76. **We oppose:**

77. ● Every law, regulation, or practice that tends to diminish, by intent or effect, the
78. Constitutional rights of citizens.

79.

80. Corporate Power

81. *Our government was created of, by and for its people, not corporations. As artificial entities,*
82. *corporations are not entitled to the political rights of human beings, yet have gained undue*
83. *influence over our government and political process.*

84.

85. We support:

- 86. ● A Constitutional amendment to establish that corporations shall not be considered as
87. “persons” for purposes of political activity, and to reverse the pernicious notion that
88. money equals speech.
- 89. ● As an interim step until the above amendment takes effect, institution of stringent
90. corporate campaign-contribution reporting requirements and prohibitions on such
91. contributions without specific advance approval by stockholders who are U.S. citizens.
- 92. ● Rigorous enforcement of antitrust and consumer protection laws.
- 93. ● Effective penalties for corporations and the persons who control them, including prison
94. terms as warranted, when those corporations violate the law.
- 95. ● Transparency in all corporate accounting.
- 96. ● Separation of investment banking from retail banking, and subjecting all banking to
97. tighter regulation, transparency, and accountability.

98.

99. We oppose:

- 100. ● U.S. corporations going offshore in order to evade U.S. taxes and other laws.
- 101. ● Transferring performance of the government’s customary functions into private hands.
- 102. ● Direct or indirect subsidies, whether through the federal tax code or by other means, to
103. any corporation that moves American jobs offshore.

104.

105. Economic Justice, Jobs, and Tax Fairness

106. *Justice in economic affairs is essential for the people to be able to fulfill their highest*
107. *expectations. Government must so align its policies and finances, and so conduct its affairs, that*
108. *its economy is strong and its entire population has a fair opportunity to prosper. "Taxes are the*
109. *dues we pay for the privilege of membership in an organized society" - President Franklin*
110. *Roosevelt.*

111.

112. We support:

- 113. ● Institution of a progressive tax system in our State, relying on a personal income tax
114. (including capital gains), reduced sales and property taxes, and replacement of the B&O
115. tax with a tax on business net income.
- 116. ● Making the federal tax system more progressive, including higher taxes on capital gains
117. and other investment income.
- 118. ● Imposing a federal tax on every stock exchange sale or purchase, based upon a percentage
119. of the price of the sale or purchase.
- 120. ● Tax cuts for the middle class and tax credits for those who live in poverty, to stimulate
121. the economy and create jobs.
- 122. ● Preserving Social Security as a Trust Fund, and removing the cap on income subject to
123. Social Security tax.
- 124. ● Establishment of a publicly-owned State bank.
- 125. ● Targeted economic-development incentives that provide verifiable, immediate, and
126. lasting benefits to our communities, subject to their being reviewed at least biannually
127. and promptly terminated if not fulfilling their intended purposes.
- 128. ● Increasing accountability for tax exemptions and preferences by requiring each recipient
129. to demonstrate annually that the state is realizing the promised benefit, and by treating
130. each such preference as a budgeted expenditure.
- 131. ● Creation of living-wage jobs and initiation of significant improvements to our
132. infrastructure;
- 133. ● Multilateral trade agreements if they (1) are conditioned on strict health, safety and
134. environmental standards, human rights and workers' rights, and (2) support transparent
135. democratic processes, including federal, state, and local laws, and (3) do not give special
136. privileges to foreign corporations over domestic companies, and (4) do not disadvantage
137. American workers.
- 138. ● Aid for small businesses, including tax credits, low interest loans, and nonprofit micro-
139. lending.
- 140. ● Enforcement of usury laws, including capping payday loans at an 18% APR.
- 141. ● Increased transparency of federal and state financial institutions and their policies.
- 142. ● A windfall-profits tax on businesses that take unreasonable or excessive profit.
- 143. ● Withholding government contracts from corporations that establish a corporate presence
144. in a different jurisdiction for tax-avoidance purposes.

145.

146. We oppose:

- 147. ● Predatory lending and misuse of private data by financial institutions.
- 148. ● Exploitation of migrant, temporary, and contract workers.
- 149. ● The Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) because it prevents our elected Congressional
- 150. members from debating and/or amending the content of international trade agreements.
- 151. ● International trade agreements, such as NAFTA, CAFTA, and the TPP that contain
- 152. provisions such as the Investment-State Dispute Settlement (USDS), Section B of the
- 153. Investment Chapter of the TPP, which abrogate our judicial sovereignty over resolution of
- 154. disputes between foreign corporations concerning our own laws.
- 155. ● All efforts to undermine minimum wage laws.
- 156. ● A tax system that rewards investment over hard work.
- 157. ● The use of credit scores in hiring or insurance rating.
- 158. ● Privatization of workers' compensation or Social Security, or reduction of Social Security
- 159. benefits by any means – including subjection of cost of living adjustments to the
- 160. “Chained” Consumer Price Index.
- 161. ● Hiring policies that discriminate against unemployed applicants.
- 162.

163. Education

164. *Educational opportunity is a basic right of all Americans. An excellent, quality public education,*
165. *preschool through post-secondary, with equal access for all, is fundamental to maintaining a*
166. *healthy democracy. It is the paramount duty of our State to make ample provision for the*
167. *education of all children.*
168.

169. We support:

- 170. ● A rigorous, comprehensive, scientifically and historically accurate curriculum.
- 171. ● Smaller class sizes based on effective student-teacher ratios.
- 172. ● Head Start and Early Childhood Education, special education, meal support, and other
173. assistive programs.
- 174. ● Inclusion of music, fine arts, civics and physical education in the curriculum.
- 175. ● Full federal and State funding of all basic, gifted, vocational, technical, alternative,
176. special education, English Language Learners, and other educational mandates, including
177. the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- 178. ● Adequate financial resources and infrastructure for the education of Fircrest Residential
179. Habilitation Center children and other individuals with disabilities.
- 180. ● Educator salaries, cost of living increases and retirement and health care benefits equal to
181. those of other professionals of similar experience and qualifications, in order to attract
182. and retain quality public school employees.
- 183. ● Teacher-led reforms for better outcomes in the classroom.
- 184. ● Greater public funding of higher education and more full-time instructional faculty, and
185. improved salary, benefits, and professional opportunity for part-time or non-tenured
186. faculty.
- 187. ● Increased opportunities for worker training, including further investments in vocational
188. high schools, community colleges, and apprentice utilization programs.
- 189. ● Improved opportunities for workforce development and training in advanced
190. manufacturing, and in other fields with known job openings at community and technical
191. colleges.
- 192. ● Increasing investments in vocational high schools, workforce training, and apprentice
193. utilization programs.
- 194. ● Overturning state funding of charter schools.

196. We oppose:

- 197. ● Standardized testing as the primary means of accountability.
- 198. ● Government funding of charter schools not subject to the governance of a local public
199. school board, at all levels of government.
- 200.

201. Environment and Energy

202. *We depend on clean air, clean water, and a healthy natural environment. The well-being of every*
203. *nation requires intelligent management of growth, limiting of urban sprawl, and preservation of*
204. *farmland, wildlife habitat, and natural resources. Accordingly, protective laws and regulations*
205. *must be vigorously enforced, and strengthened where needed.*

206.

207. We support:

- 208. ● Aggressive action now to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases in order
209. immediately retard, and ultimately prevent, further global climate change and ocean
210. acidification.
- 211. ● The development and greater use of clean and sustainable alternatives to fossil
212. fuels, by such strategies as:
 - 213. ○ Government-subsidized research into wind, solar, ocean and geothermal power,
214. along with biomass and other innovative technologies;
 - 215. ○ Higher fuel-efficiency and anti-pollution standards for all vehicles, and increasing
216. the percentage of alternative-fuel vehicles in use;
 - 217. ○ Tax incentives, including imposition of a carbon tax and repeal of tax breaks for
218. oil companies; and
 - 219. ○ Prohibition of new or expanded nuclear power plants without proof that their
220. operation will be “clean” and waste dealt with responsibly.
- 221. ● Intensified international efforts to prevent the release of chlorine gases, in order to
222. protect the ozone layer.
- 223. ● Creating incentives for conservation of energy, water and other resources, and for reuse
224. and recycling in order to reduce the waste stream while assuring safe disposition of
225. hazardous waste.
- 226. ● Strengthening the State’s Growth Management Act.
- 227. ● Reforming the State’s excessively liberal land-use vesting rules.
- 228. ● Protecting environmentally sensitive areas, including the continental shelf, from
229. exploration and/or extraction of oil, gas, and other substances, and from the disposal or
230. treatment of wastes.
- 231. ● Production of renewable energy on farms, including biofuels, solar and wind power, to
232. reduce greenhouse gases in ways that are sustainable and do not compete with food
233. crops.
- 234. ● Management and preservation of Wilderness areas and other public lands as national
235. treasures, and according state and national parks the funding needed for their preservation
236. and public enjoyment.
- 237. ● Increased federal and state protection of wild and scenic rivers.
- 238. ● A fair system of paying for growth, including assessment of impact fees on developers.
- 239. ● Preserving green and open spaces in urban environments even as density increases
240. so as to protect the quality of life for urban residents in terms of their physical,
241. emotional and mental health, as scientific research has demonstrated this need (see,
242. e.g., https://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/Thm_Mental.html)
- 243. ● Revising state laws to require greater participation by and authority of residents to
244. approve major changes in zoning that affect more than one property.

- 245. ● Producer responsibility for packaging and waste products.
- 246. ● ASARCO funds and funds from the Model Toxics Control Act being used only for toxic
- 247. site cleanup, including the 20,000 developed and undeveloped parcels slated for cleanup.
- 248. ● Implementation of stormwater attenuation to address polluted runoff, including
- 249. daylighting streams and creeks where possible.

250.

251. We oppose:

- 252. ● Coal power generating plants anywhere, and coal transportation by any means.
- 253. ● Increased shipment of oil by train without increased safety measures.
- 254. ● The construction of potentially hazardous pipelines through environmentally
- 255. sensitive areas, especially areas containing aquifers.
- 256. ● Undermining Initiative 937's renewable-energy goals.
- 257. ● Mountaintop removal for extraction of natural resources.

258.

259. Foreign Policy

260. *Recognizing that our security ultimately depends on peace throughout the world, the United*
261. *States will best protect its interests by working within the international community, using the*
262. *tools of development, diplomacy and defense, in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.*

263.

264. We support:

- 265. ● Fully cooperative participation in the United Nations.
- 266. ● Resolving international conflicts through diplomacy and international institutions, not by
267. force or threat of force.
- 268. ● Reduction of nuclear arsenals, coupled with international control of fissile material.
- 269. ● Providing our fair share of aid to reduce world poverty and improve health, education,
270. and access to safe water and food.
- 271. ● Limiting military and other aid to only those nations that have demonstrated their respect
272. for human and civil rights for men and women alike.
- 273. ● Working closely and persistently with other countries to prevent genocide.
- 274. ● Immediate signing and ratification of the U.N. agreement forming an International
275. Criminal Court, and recognition of its jurisdiction.
- 276. ● All parties' strict adherence to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Geneva
277. Conventions, the Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions, and other international
278. agreements protecting civilian populations.
- 279. ● Improvement of international financial systems to prevent economic disruptions.
- 280. ● Prompt use of the full influence of the United States, through serious, constructive and
281. persistent engagement, to promote negotiations and other actions that lead to a successful
282. and sustainable resolution of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, including mutual
283. recognition, that ensures security, economic growth, and quality of life for the peoples of
284. the sovereign state of Israel and a sovereign state of Palestine.
- 285. ● Greater participation with our neighboring states and provinces through the Pacific
286. Northwest Economic Region.

287.

288. We oppose:

- 289. ● Preemptive war.
- 290. ● Overt or covert efforts to destabilize other nations' governments.
- 291. ● The marginalization of women in any way, in any sphere of human activity, in every part
292. of the world, whether by law, custom, or culture.
- 293. ● Foreign trade agreements that put the interests of any corporation above the rights and
294. interests of governments or workers.

295.

296. Government and Political Reform

297. *Our government derives its legitimacy from, and is answerable to, the people. We are committed*
298. *to a representative democracy that encourages maximum active participation, a voting process*
299. *that is legitimate, fair, transparent, and open to all citizens, and a requirement of responsibility*
300. *from voters and accountability from those they elect. No American citizen should be removed*
301. *from the voting rolls or otherwise constrained from participating in an election for which they*
302. *are eligible.*

303.

304. We support:

- 305. ● Vote-by-mail and other electoral procedures that increase voter participation, including
- 306. same-day voter registration and an end to felon disenfranchisement.
- 307. ● Instant Runoff elections.
- 308. ● Redistricting commissions that are fair and independent of political influence.
- 309. ● Public financing, and a ban on all other financing, for campaigns for judicial office.
- 310. ● Adherence to open public meeting laws, with genuine opportunities for public comment
- 311. on policy proposals.
- 312. ● Accounting for tax exemptions as expenditures in the State budget.
- 313. ● Restoring the functionality of the U.S. Senate by abolishing “holds” on
- 314. appointments.
- 315. ● Prompt production of documents requested under the federal Freedom of Information Act
- 316. and its state and local counterparts.
- 317. ● Encouraging women, minorities, and other traditionally underrepresented persons to seek
- 318. political office.

319.

320. We oppose:

- 321. ● The top-two “winnowing” primary.
- 322. ● Onerous voter ID requirements and other techniques of voter suppression.
- 323. ● Laws that require a supermajority vote to raise revenue.
- 324. ● Expansion of Presidential powers, including the use of “signing statements” that purport
- 325. to invalidate a portion of legislation being signed into law.

326.

327. Health Care

328. *Health care is a basic human right. Our government should assure, and guarantee by law,*
329. *accessible and affordable health care for all, making healthcare in Washington State a right for*
330. *every person, and securing a patient's right to choice of licensed provider type.*

331.

332. We support:

- 333. ● Option 1: Establishment of a comprehensive, publicly funded single-payer national
334. health care system for all, emphasizing preventive and primary care and chronic disease
335. management and relying on evidence-based guidelines, at a cost individuals and society
336. can afford, with specific benefits that address all the patient's health needs without being
337. subject to arbitrary exclusions or termination.
- 338. ● Option 2: Until Option 1 is in place, a national public-option plan providing the same
339. benefits as Option 1.
- 340. ● Use of government purchasing power to negotiate reduced prices for prescriptions that
341. include drugs, medical supplies and equipment.
- 342. ● Increasing the supply of primary-care providers, especially those who will work with
343. underserved communities and populations. In the 2015 Washington State legislative
344. session, funding was restored to the Washington State Health Professionals Loan
345. Repayment Program (HPLRP). We recommend continued funding for this program to
346. support underserved communities in recruiting and retaining primary care providers.
- 347. ● Ample funding of medical research under the National Institutes of Health, based on
348. scientific merit, and basing Public Health policy on sound objective scientific guidelines.
- 349. ● A unified electronic medical record system to reduce errors and enable a seamless
350. transfer of information among institutions, while providing a more accurate way to assess
351. clinical outcomes and compare treatment approaches, consistent with safeguarding of
352. patient privacy.
- 353. ● A Patient's Bill of Rights guaranteeing (1) respect for people's wishes regarding their
354. medical care, especially at the end of life, and for a patient's right to refuse life-
355. sustaining interventions when it is the will of the patient or parent/guardian to choose that
356. approach (2) the right of patients and loved ones to voice grievances to health care
357. institutions without fear of retaliation, and (3) a patient's right to die in a non-institutional
358. setting.
- 359. ● Increased funding for global family planning, including comprehensive sex education and
360. contraception.
- 361. ● Availability of reproductive health and abortion services at all medical institutions, with
362. guaranteed insurance coverage.
- 363. ● The use by all health care entities that receive any federal, state or city funds— including
364. but not limited to clinics, emergency rooms, pharmacies, hospitals, nursing homes – of the
365. scientific best practices principle for care and treatment regardless of religious affiliation
366. or belief of the providers, and honoring advance directives of all patients in their care.
- 367.

368. Human Services

369. *A good government provides a safety net of social services that meets the basic needs of people*
370. *who may be on the margins of society, whether they be elderly, impoverished, homeless, mentally*
371. *ill, disabled, or have chemical dependency, to enable them to attain their full potential. The only*
372. *genuine welfare reform is one that reduces poverty, not just the welfare rolls.*
373.

374. We support:

- 375. ● Safe, affordable housing for all, including shelters and subsidized housing.
- 376. ● Quality, affordable childcare, education, training, medical care and substance-abuse
- 377. treatment as cost-effective methods of helping working parents and others get off welfare
- 378. and escape poverty.
- 379. ● Public assistance to safeguard those unable to provide for themselves.
- 380. ● Maintaining Social Security benefits for dependent survivors and the disabled.
- 381. ● Alternatives to nursing homes for people who do not need full-time skilled nursing care;
- 382. ● Mental health and substance-abuse services where needed.
- 383. ● Making more public facilities accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 384. ● Investigating all reports of abuse and neglect in adult family homes, boarding homes,
- 385. group homes and other assisted living facilities.
- 386. ● Providing appropriate housing and care for the mentally ill and the developmentally
- 387. disabled.
- 388. ● Maintaining state mental hospitals and residential habitation centers, including Fircrest
- 389. and Rainier School.
- 390. ● Adequate training for all staff who work with vulnerable populations.

392. We oppose:

- 393. ● Erosion of the social safety net.
- 394. ● Discharging hospital patients or residents from state-operated residential facilities to
- 395. homeless shelters or group homes without adequately trained staff, medicines and
- 396. services, including safety oversight to make sure vulnerable people are not at risk of
- 397. harm.
- 398. ● Using the criminal justice system to incarcerate the mentally ill and the developmentally
- 399. disabled.

400.

401. Immigration

402. *America is a nation of immigrants. Immigrants strengthen America. All immigrants should be*
403. *afforded full human rights and a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status. Children of*
404. *immigrants should be accorded the same educational opportunities as other children. We*
405. *encourage state and local government to continuously respect and honor diversity in our*
406. *communities.*

407.

408. We support:

- 409. ● Comprehensive immigration reform that protects the integrity of our borders while
410. recognizing the basic human rights of immigrants and providing them a clear pathway to
411. legal status and citizenship if desired.
- 412. ● Ensuring that immigrants obtain due process in all proceedings.
- 413. ● Policies that integrate and support immigrants as members of our communities, including
414. preparation for citizenship.
- 415. ● Requiring state and local government to provide interpretation services or translation of
416. government documents.
- 417. ● Education of all children regardless of immigration status.

418.

419. We oppose:

- 420. ● Demands for immediate production of documents regarding one's status in the United
421. States, other than as part of federal immigration enforcement.

422.

423. Labor

424. *Organized labor is essential to the social, economic, and political health of our democracy. The*
425. *tremendous improvement in the overall standard of living that occurred in the years after World*
426. *War II was due to the preceding and ongoing struggles of unions and working people who fought,*
427. *sacrificed, and died to gain the right to organize and bargain collectively for better working*
428. *conditions and a share in our prosperity. The decline of real wages over the past three*
429. *decades, accompanied by powerful anti-union political attacks, has intensified the need for a*
430. *strong union movement.*

431.

432. We support:

- 433. ● The legal right of public and private sector employees to organize into unions, to bargain
434. collectively on all matters pertaining to their working conditions and compensation, and
435. the right to strike without fear of reprisal or replacement.
- 436. ● The automatic recognition of a union, based on the signatures of a majority of those
437. represented, and punishment of corporations that engage in anti-union efforts.
- 438. ● Enforcement of prevailing wage laws for work under government contracts, and of area
439. standards for wages and benefits.
- 440. ● A minimum wage that is a living wage, equal pay for equal work, and protection of
441. overtime pay.
- 442. ● A workers' Bill of Rights that assures rights of assembly, association and free speech,
443. due process, freedom from discrimination, and democracy within unions.
- 444. ● Equal participation between labor and employers in the management of workers'
445. pensions.
- 446. ● Apprenticeship set-asides, and full funding for enforcement of child labor standards that
447. limit the hours youths are allowed to be employed during the school year.
- 448. ● Respecting picket lines by not crossing them.
- 449. ● "Best Value Contractor" policies and "Fair Contracting" with "Responsible and
450. Responsive" bidder language in all public works jobs that include contractor
451. responsibilities for prevailing wages, health insurance, retirement and training.
- 452. ● Preference for Washington State residents and contractors on public works projects in our
453. state.
- 454. ● Provision of medical and other benefits to all employees.
- 455. ● Creation and rigorous enforcement of anti-wage theft laws and regulations.
- 456. ● Paid family and medical leave.

457.

458. We oppose:

- 459. ● So-called "right-to-work" laws and other anti-union legislation.
- 460. ● Government officials' attacks on unions and government employees.
- 461. ● The privatization or out-sourcing of public services.

- 462. ● Under-funding of workers' pensions by either the private or public sector.
- 463. ● The unilateral redefining of workers as independent contractors in order to reduce labor
- 464. costs, render workers ineligible for benefits, or weaken safety standards and other
- 465. protections.
- 466. ● Foreign trade agreements that put the interests of corporations above the rights of
- 467. workers and protection of the environment.
- 468. ● Weakening of either State or federal Family and Medical Leave laws.
- 469.

470. Law and the Justice System

471. *The rule of law is prerequisite to a civil society. A responsible government provides safety,*
472. *security, and even-handed justice for all, with fairness and respect for the individual.*

473.

474. We support:

475. ● Refocusing the criminal justice system to emphasize prevention and rehabilitation over
476. incarceration alone, and on preparing prisoners for re-entry into society.

477. ● Working to eliminate the conditions that lead to crime, by government investment in
478. education and social services (including mental health and youth programs) and
479. promotion of living-wage jobs so as to reduce poverty and homelessness.

480. ● Abolition of the death penalty.

481. ● Keeping nonviolent crimes off the “Three Strikes” list.

482. ● Expunging all forms of institutional racism and sexism from the justice system.

483. ● An end to our nationwide “war on drugs.”

484. ● The creation and funding of specialized drug courts, and of specialized mental health
485. courts to arrange for the humane treatment and rehabilitation of mentally ill people
486. caught up in the criminal justice system.

487. ● Vigorous prosecution of white-collar crime, especially that occurring in the financial
488. sector.

489. ● Mandatory registration and licensing of firearms, safety training for gun owners, safety
490. locks and secure storage for guns, and a total ban on automatic and assault weapons.

491. ● Background checks and waiting periods must be made sufficiently effective, and
492. applicable to gun shows and other transactions, to keep guns out of the hands of felons
493. and mentally unstable persons.

494. ● Gun-safety education in the schools.

495. ● *Removing Cannabis from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.*

496.

497. Media Reform

498. *Essential for democracy to flourish are an informed citizenry, persistently inquisitive media, and*
499. *the free flow of information, including Internet neutrality. The public owns the broadcast*
500. *airwaves and the Internet, which should be managed to serve the public interest.*
501.

502. We support:

- 503. ● Diversity of ownership as a central principle of broadcast licensing.
- 504. ● Strengthening media ownership regulations to avoid corporate domination of our
- 505. airwaves.
- 506. ● Encouraging minority and community media ownership.
- 507. ● Ensuring that media license holders provide diverse programming daily.
- 508. ● Increased funding for public broadcasting, including documentary films and
- 509. noncommercial news programs.
- 510. ● Adequate, stable public funding, free of political pressure, for public radio and public
- 511. television.
- 512. ● Establishing a system for community-level, non-profit and non-commercial radio and TV
- 513. nationwide.
- 514. ● Ensuring that rural Americans have access to a modern communications infrastructure.
- 515. ● Reinstatement of the Fairness Doctrine for broadcast media during election campaigns
- 516. and making it applicable to cable networks, to promote greater balance in coverage.
- 517. ● Increasing affordable access to high-speed Internet statewide.
- 518. ● Enhancing content diversity and press freedom by retaining and strengthening
- 519. community media voices and messages, in order to foster greater participation in our
- 520. community's shared social, cultural and political life.
- 521. ● Aggressive application of antitrust laws to prevent the formation of monopolies in the
- 522. wireless and broadband service industries.
- 523. ● Local governments' placing more public information and documents online.

524.

525. We oppose:

- 526. ● False claims of "national security" to suppress investigative journalism.
- 527. ● Media consolidation, which has a negative impact on communities across the United
- 528. States.
- 529.

530. Military

531. *Those who have answered our country's call to military service must be accorded the quality*
532. *medical care and family/veterans' benefits promised at the time of their recruitment and*
533. *enlistment.*

534.

535. We support:

536. ● Assuring that our military personnel and veterans receive the very best in physical and
537. mental rehabilitation wherever needed and without cost.

538. ● Military service on our behalf being performed only by men and women accountable to
539. the public, the law, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and not by contractors.

540. ● Assuring that all American military personnel are instructed in their rights and
541. responsibilities, including those under the Geneva Conventions, and that they are
542. subjected to vigorous prosecution for violations thereof or for other criminal conduct
543. including sexual assault or harassment.

544. ● Ending restrictions on providing abortions or reproductive health services as part of
545. humanitarian aid.

546. ● Independent military prosecutors, not commanding officers, investigating and
547. prosecuting all allegations of sexual misconduct.

548.

549. We oppose:

550. ● Activation of National Guard personnel for service outside the United States, other than
551. pursuant to a declaration of war.

552. ● Preemptive use of military force.

553. ● Nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and genocidal biological warfare

554.

555. Transportation

556. *We believe that an efficient, well-planned, multimodal transportation system promotes a healthy*
557. *economy, environment and community.*

558.

559. We support:

- 560. ● Increased investment in the expansion and maintenance of the State's transportation
561. infrastructure, including accessible transportation for all, with safe, affordable, and
562. efficient bus and rail services.
- 563. ● Land-use planning around existing and planned transportation infrastructure, with the
564. goal of decreasing the need to drive, while recognizing that there will remain a need for
565. the personal automobile.
- 566. ● A transportation system safe for all users, motorized and non-motorized.
- 567. ● The creation of pedestrian and cycling master plans as separate pieces of local
568. government transportation planning.
- 569. ● The construction and maintenance of sidewalks, bike trails, and bike corridors, including
570. the Burke-Gilman and Interurban Trails.
- 571. ● Increased investment in public infrastructure that broadens individuals' multimodal
572. transportation choices.
- 573. ● Institutions, including employers, providing free or low-cost mass transit passes to their
574. employees or other constituents.
- 575. ● The extension of Link Light Rail from Seattle to the East side, Everett and Tacoma.
- 576. ● The development of a high-speed rail system from Seattle to Vancouver and Seattle to
577. Portland.
- 578.

579. Tribal Relations and Sovereignty

580. *Local, state, and federal governments must respect Native American nations on a sovereign*
581. *government-to-government basis and must respect the decisions of Native American Nations,*
582. *affirm their rights derived from treaties and state compacts, and oppose attempts to diminish*
583. *their sovereignty and cultures. We call on local, state, and federal governments to help improve*
584. *the social, economic, and health status of all Native American people to a level equivalent to that*
585. *of other Americans.*

586.

587. **We support:**

- 588. ● Upholding treaties and tribal agreements by all parties.
- 589. ● Restoration of federal recognition for formerly recognized Tribes, including the
590. Duwamish.
- 591. ● Continued efforts to maintain and restore salmon runs and protect shellfish resources
592. critical to Native American cultures and economies.
- 593. ● The preservation and protection of sites of historic, cultural and religious significance.
- 594. ● Educating the American public about the inherent and treaty-based rights of Indian tribes,
595. a step that is vital to respectful and civil relations between Indian tribes and local
596. communities, the state, and the nation.
- 597. ● Educating students in the local school districts by incorporating more of the history and
598. culture of Native American Peoples, especially those residing in Washington.
- 599. ● Continued funding of programs that combat social and economic problems such as
600. poverty and alcoholism.
- 601. ● Fully cooperative relations with Indian Country regarding water.
- 602.